24 MAI 1993



From: JPUOTILA--VCH0021A Date and time 24.05.93 15:03:21
To: SCARLSON--VCH0021A Stig Carlson

From: Johan Puotila
To : Stig Carlson
Subject: Tobacco Act/Finland

Stig,

CFIE and SAK (the main labour union) met today with representatives of the Ministry of Health, to discuss the workplace smoking issue.

Both the Employers' Confederation and the main labour union stuck to their approach of local agreements when it comes to workplace smoking, despite of heavy pressure from Ministry officials, headed by Mr. Simonen. The Ministry had offered as a compromise a "classification of premises", according to which a general legislative smoking ban would be implemented in so called joint premises at workplaces. CFIE and SAK did not agree to this.

The CFIE representative stated that if the Ministry would approve of local arrangements between employers' and employees, the main organizations could then cooperate and issue guidelines on how smoking at workplace could peacefully be solved, to the best interest of both smokers and non-smokers. It however became obvious that the civil servants behind the proposal are mentally geared to legislative bans and are not willing to see any other alternatives or solutions.

However, Mr. Simonen and his friends do have a major problem now as the labour market is and continues to be against their approach. They will most likely try to get the politicians to ignore the labour market opinion as a next step. CFIE and the unions will in their turn make sure that there's no misunderstandings among main political forces of their opinion on this issue.

Best Regards

Johan

cc: AANDRADE--VCH0021A Anthony Andrade
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